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LETTER DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 September 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 September 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

In its statement of 3 September 1999 (A/54/331-S/1999/959, annex), the Presidency of the European Union acknowledged the completion of the signing of the Lusaka Agreement (S/1999/815, annex) and expressed its readiness to support the implementation of the Agreement, provided that all the parties themselves implemented it in accordance with its terms.

However, the European Union remains deeply concerned about the delays in the implementation of the Agreement by the parties, and the continued military activities and hostile propaganda. The essential requirements for the implementation of the Agreement have not been fulfilled: for instance, the selection of the representatives for the Joint Military Commission has not been completed and the facilitator for the national dialogue has not been agreed upon by all the parties.

The European Union therefore strongly urges all parties to fully abide by the contents and timetable of the Agreement, which is the negotiated instrument for a peaceful solution of the conflict. The European Union also encourages the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to make all necessary efforts to support the implementation of the Agreement.

The European Union continues to be willing to support various components in the implementation of the Agreement, such as the peacekeeping operations by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the Joint Military Commission, the national dialogue, the reintegration of refugees and displaced people in their countries of origin and the process of democratization, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.